

B. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A computer-implemented method for secure password entry, comprising:

displaying a password prompt comprising a changing stream of random characters, wherein a particular character within said changing stream of random characters is displayed at a visibly detectable higher frequency; and

receiving input to increment or decrement said particular character to reach a password character of a password.

Claim 2 (Original): The method according to claim 1 for secure password entry, further comprising:

displaying a plurality of character positions, wherein a stream of random characters is displayed in each of said plurality of character positions, wherein a particular position from among said plurality of character positions provides said password prompt.

Claim 3 (Original): The method according to claim 2 for secure password entry, further comprising:

adjusting which character position from among said plurality of character positions provides said password prompt.

Claim 4 (Original): The method according to claim 2 for secure password entry, further comprising:

adjusting a number of said plurality of character positions.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1 for secure password entry, further comprising:

responsive to receiving input of a character selection input indicating that said particular character, selecting said particular character as said password character from among a plurality of separately selectable password characters of said password; and

responsive to receiving input of a password completion character indicating that said password is complete, securely passing each separately selected password character of said password to a requesting software layer.

Claim 6 (Original): The method according to claim 1 for secure password entry, further comprising:

responsive to receiving a request for a password from a software layer within a data processing system, invoking a password entry controller from within said data processing system, wherein said password entry controller controls said displaying said password prompt and said receiving input to increment or decrement said particular character.

Claim 7 (Original): The method according to claim 1 for secure password entry, further comprising:

responsive to receiving, at a client system, a request for a password entry from a server system from which said client system is attempting to access a resource, invoking a password entry controller from within said data processing system, wherein said password entry controller controls said displaying said password prompt and said receiving input to increment or decrement said particular character.

Claim 8 (Original): The method according to claim 1 for secure password entry, further comprising:

generating said stream of random characters, wherein said particular character is randomly selected.

Claim 9 (Original): The method according to claim 1 for secure password entry, further comprising:

adjusting a frequency percentage at which said particular character is displayed in said stream of random characters.

Claim 10 (Original): A system for secure password entry, comprising:

a data processing system for controlling a display interface;

said data processing system further comprising:

means for displaying a password prompt comprising a changing stream of random characters within said display interface, wherein a particular character within said changing stream of random characters is displayed at a visibly detectable higher frequency; and

means for receiving input at said data processing system to increment or decrement said particular character to reach a password character of a password.

Claim 11 (Original): The system according to claim 10 for secure password entry, further comprising:

means for displaying a plurality of character positions, wherein a stream of random characters is displayed in each of said plurality of character positions, wherein a particular position from among said plurality of character positions provides said password prompt; and

Claim 12 (Original): The system according to claim 11 for secure password entry, further comprising:

means for adjusting which character position from among said plurality of character positions provides said password prompt.

Claim 13 (Original): The system according to claim 11 for secure password entry, further comprising:

means for adjusting a number of said plurality of character positions.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The system according to claim 10 for secure password entry, further comprising:

means, responsive to receiving input of a character selection input indicating that said particular character, for selecting said particular character as said password character from among a plurality of separately selectable password characters of said password; and

means, responsive to receiving input of a password completion character indicating that said password is complete, for securely passing each separately selected password character of said password to a requesting software layer.

Claim 15 (Original): The system according to claim 10 for secure password entry, further comprising:

a password entry controller executing within said data processing system for controlling said means for display said password prompt and said means for receiving input at said data processing system; and

means, responsive to receiving a request for a password from a software layer within a data processing system, for invoking said password entry controller.

Claim 16 (Original): The system according to claim 10 for secure password entry, further comprising:

a password entry controller for controlling said means for display said password prompt and said means for receiving input at said data processing system; and

means, responsive to receiving a request for a password from a server system from which said data processing system is attempting to accessing a resource, for invoking said password entry controller.

Claim 17 (Original): The system according to claim 10 for secure password entry, further comprising:

means for generating said string of random characters, wherein said particular character is randomly selected.

Claim 18 (Original): The system according to claim 10 for secure password entry, further comprising: means for adjusting a frequency percentage at which said particular character is displayed in said stream of random characters.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A computer program product for secure password entry, residing on a computer readable medium comprising instructions which when executed on a computer system cause the computer system to; for secure password entry, comprising:

means for displaying a password prompt comprising a changing stream of random characters, wherein a particular character within said changing stream of random characters is displayed at a visibly detectable higher frequency; and

means for receiving[[ing]] input to increment or decrement said particular character to reach a password character of a password.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The computer program product according to claim 19 for secure password entry, said instructions which when executed on a computer system further causing said computer system to comprising:

means for displaying[[ing]] a plurality of character positions, wherein a stream of random characters is displayed in each of said plurality of character positions, wherein a particular position from among said plurality of character positions provides said password prompt[[; and]]

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The computer program product according to claim 19 for secure password entry, said instructions which when executed on a computer system further causing said computer system to comprising:

means for adjust[[ing]] which character position from among said plurality of character positions provides said password prompt.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The computer program product according to claim 19 for secure password entry, said instructions which when executed on a computer system further causing said computer system to comprising:

means for adjust[[ing]] a number of said plurality of character positions.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The computer program product according to claim 19 for secure password entry, said instructions which when executed on a computer system further causing said computer system to comprising:

responsive to receiving input of a character selection input indicating that said particular character, select said particular character as said password character from among a plurality of separately selectable password characters of said password; and

means, responsive to receiving input of a password completion character indicating that said password is complete, for securely pass[[ing]] each separately selected password character of said password to a requesting software layer.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The computer program product according to claim 19 for secure password entry, said instructions which when executed on a computer system further causing said computer system to comprising:

means for generate[[ing]] said stream of random characters, wherein said particular character is randomly selected.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): The computer program product according to claim 19 for secure password entry, said instructions which when executed on a computer system further causing said computer system to comprising:

~~means for adjust[[ing]] a frequency percentage at which said particular character is displayed in said stream of random characters.~~